

Senate Resolution 701

By: Senators Grant of the 25th, Whitehead, Sr. of the 24th, Thomas of the 2nd, Miles of the 43rd, Seay of the 34th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and public service to Georgia of James Ray Crawford, Jr.; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, James Ray Crawford, Jr., served his beloved State of Georgia for more than 32
4 years in a variety of key public service positions; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Crawford unexpectedly died on November 23, 2005, of a massive heart
6 attack while enjoying one of his favorite pastimes, hunting with his son; and

7 WHEREAS, a graduate of the University of Georgia and the Cumberland School of Law at
8 Samford University, Mr. Crawford served his country honorably as a decorated officer in the
9 United States Army; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Crawford was one of the most personable and well-respected public
11 servants in all of state government, having served Georgia during the terms of six governors
12 as he provided leadership for the State Properties Commission, Georgia Building Authority,
13 and most recently as Georgia's first State Property Officer, appointed by Governor Sonny
14 Perdue; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Crawford was also active in many other significant leadership roles in state
16 government, serving as chairman of the Georgia Land Conservation Council and as a
17 member of the MARTA Board of Directors, the State Board of Equalization, Sapelo Island
18 Heritage Authority, and other community organizations; and

19 WHEREAS, for many years, members of the General Assembly counted on Mr. Crawford's
20 expertise and ability to forge partnerships as critical pieces of legislation pertaining to
21 property transfers, acquisition of public lands and management of public buildings assigned
22 to state government were addressed and issues resolved; and

1 WHEREAS, Georgia legislators regarded him as a dear friend and confidante who always
2 listened to their concerns and endeavored to help guide them through complicated issues
3 while ensuring that actions taken were within the statutory allowances and in the public's best
4 interest; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Crawford was also a dedicated family man whose greatest love and
6 achievements were his wife of more than 35 years, Susan, his daughter, Kelly, and his sons,
7 Tray and Chris, along with his pride and joy, his grandson, Mason Bond Crawford; and

8 WHEREAS, work and family duties didn't keep Mr. Crawford away from the love of sports
9 that had always been such a big part of his life and that of his grown children, given his
10 history of playing football at the University of Georgia and his children's participation in
11 organized athletics even into their adulthood; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Crawford will always be missed and remembered by the many friends he
13 made over the course of his extraordinary lifetime.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
15 join in commemorating the memory of James Ray Crawford, Jr., and honor his more than 32
16 years of outstanding service to Georgia and extend their most heartfelt condolences to his
17 family and friends.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
19 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mrs. Susan Green Crawford.